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Central Intelligence Bulletin

DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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26 July 1973

249-227820

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Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A024900100001-4

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A024900100001-4

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UNITED NATIONS: Chances are slim for avoiding an outcome unfavorable to the US in the Security Council's Middle East vote scheduled for today. The week-long consultations have only highlighted Arab-Israeli differences.

A nonaligned draft resolution is expected to receive at least 12 votes, with the US standing alone in opposition. The resolution would "deplore" Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands and failure to cooperate with UN mediation efforts. US proposals to modify the draft have failed to draw support. Egyptian President Sadat's recent statement that he expects nothing from the council session and the continued firmness of his UN representative supports the impression that Egypt is not deterred by prospects of a US veto.

Israel is equally unrelenting, objecting not only to the nonaligned draft but also to US proposals referring to the "interests of the Palestinians" which would, Tel Aviv argues, recognize another party to peace negotiations. Israeli representatives are urging the US to drop compromise efforts and veto the nonaligned resolution.

Secretary General Waldheim has said that his trip is not tied to the outcome of debate. However, Tel Aviv--which had supported the trip primarily with the hope it would sidetrack the council debate--is threatening to shun the visit if the nonaligned resolution is approved.

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GREECE: In the last days before the expected ratification of the new Greek republic by plebiscite on Sunday, George Papadopoulos' opponents and even some of his associates are concerned that he may be attempting to gather too much power in his own hands.

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[redacted] an armed forces alert began on 23 July and will continue through 29 July, but this is a normal precaution under the circumstances. On balance, most army officers still appear to support Papadopoulos, for lack of an attractive alternative. Papadopoulos himself seems unconcerned and is proceeding with plans for his new government. [redacted]

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Italy: Acting on its pledge to combat soaring inflation, the Rumor government invoked emergency decree laws on 24 July to impose a three-month freeze on the prices of food and the output of large industrial firms. Rents for persons with low incomes were frozen until the end of the year. Decree laws are automatically annulled after 60 days unless Parliament approves or rejects the decree within that time. Prime Minister Rumor is trying to secure parliamentary approval before 9 August when the summer recess begins. [REDACTED]

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Egypt: The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) continues to be more optimistic about a new oil find in the Gulf of Suez than the American Oil Company (Amoco), which is developing the field. The EGPC announced on 22 July that the field would produce 100,000 barrels per day by 1974, increasing total Egyptian output by 50 percent. Amoco has confirmed that the field will be producing shortly at 30,000 barrels per day, but warned that at least two more wells must be drilled before the field's potential can be accurately estimated. [REDACTED]

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Iran-USSR: After hard bargaining, Moscow has agreed to raise the price paid for Iranian natural gas by 35 percent. Iran's gas deliveries, which are exchanged for Soviet military and economic credits, amounted to \$62.4 million in 1972. Afghanistan is now negotiating with the USSR for a similar hike in gas prices. [REDACTED]

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**These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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